

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT 29 May 1951 Tudeh Demonstrations
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1. The Tudeh demonstration of 29 May 1951 was staged at Ferdowsi Square, Tehran. An "organized committee" in a truck and three taxis (all equipped with loud-speakers) issued instructions to "discipline officers" (identified by arm bands) who organized the demonstrators.¹ After the staging, the parade marched past the British and American Embassies to Bahrestan Square where speeches were made.

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2. The demonstration was largely under the auspices of the Society of the Enemies of the Oil Company. Demonstrators included:

a. The following trade unions: silo workers; cement factory workers; tailors; unemployed copper-smelting workers; Ray² industrial workers; northeastern Tehran workers; women workers.

- b. "Iranian mothers" and "intellectual women."
- c. Student contingents.
- d. Children.

3. Banners, slogans, and speeches attacked the United States and Great Britain (particularly the former) and voiced the following demands:

- a. Prompt and unconditional expropriation of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company.
- b. Condemnation of United States-British alignment on the oil question and interference of the United States in Iranian internal affairs on the oil question.
- c. Removal of martial law in Khuzistan.
- d. Nationalization of Bahrein oil.

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- e. Release of political prisoners and freedom for all political parties.
- f. Repeal of Article 7 of the nationalization law, which calls for the sale of oil to former customers (i.e. British).
- g. Vilification of United States action in Korea and British-American imperialism in the Orient.
- h. Votes for women.

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4. Part of the demonstrators attacked Prime Minister Mossadeq³ on the following grounds:
 - a. The "undemocratic" electoral reform bill proposed by the Government.
 - b. The delay in the implementation of the oil nationalization bill.
5. The demonstration was perfectly organized and the mob under complete control of the "discipline officers" who appeared to be making sure that no disorder occurred. The "discipline officers" were noted stopping paraders from giving the communist clenched-fist salute in front of the British Embassy, presumably so that the parade could not be branded as communist, which would weaken the "indigenous anti-British" flavor.
6. According to informant, it was estimated that the participants in the parade numbered between 5,000 and 10,000 and that the final gathering, including onlookers, numbered between 35,000 and 50,000.⁴
7. Another source stated that, according to talk within the Tudeh Party, the Tudeh participants in the demonstration were estimated to be approximately 5,000.⁵
8. The balance of the demonstrators were organized by the Mossadeq Government (Dr. Baghai's new pro-Government party "Zahmal Kashan") in an effort to "tone down" the anti-Government slogans of the Tudeh Party (see above).
9. According to the local press:
 - a. Minor demonstrations were also held in Kermanshah, Isfahan, and Meshed.
 - b. A scheduled demonstration at Tabriz was "held off" by local authorities.

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- 1 [REDACTED] Comment. The excellent organizational ability of the Tudeh Party is again apparent.

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- 2 [REDACTED] Comment. South Tehran suburb.

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- 3 [REDACTED] Comment. The demonstration signaled the formal beginning of the Tudeh campaign against Mossadeq, based on the following:
 - a. Opposition to the proposal for electoral reform which, because of literacy qualifications, works against the Tudeh Party.
 - b. An attempt by the Tudeh Party to accuse Mossadeq of "backsliding" on oil nationalization and thus, by arousing public opinion, forcing the Government to become even more extreme in its implementation of nationalization and further weakening the British-United States position in Iran, leaving Iran by default to the Soviet Union.

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4  Comment. Discrepancies can be attributed to the time of day when observed.

25X1A 5  Comment. Although the demonstration was basically Tudeh-inspired, the size of the demonstration is an unreliable guide to Tudeh strength because of the following factors:

- a. The Tudeh Party used a "front" group which means that the bulk of the group membership were not card holders but misled adherents and "fellow travelers" taken in by "front" slogans.
- b. Demonstrations always attract curious bystanders.
- c. Anti-British rallying slogans have a wide popular appeal and it is easy to gather a crowd.

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